

Claim 13 line 1 insert -- negative -- before "charged".

Claim 15 line 5 insert -- negative -- before "charged".

Claim 21 line 2 change "weights" to read -- weight --.

Please add the following new claims:

inv 35. A method for making a sterilized, purified, long acting drug composition, which comprises:

A1 combining an aqueous solution of a negative charged polymer with an aqueous solution of a nonionic polymer to form a polymer matrix;

adding thereto an active drug which is dispersed within the polymer matrix; and

sterilizing the resulting composition. - -

- - 36. The method of claim 35, wherein the negative charged polymer material is selected from the group consisting of polysulfated glucosoglycans, glycosaminoglycans, mucopolysaccharides and mixtures thereof. - -

- - 37. The method of claim 35, wherein the negative charged polymer material is selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid salts, chondroitin sulfate and mixtures thereof. --

- - 38. The method of claim 35, wherein the negative charged

polymer material has a mean average molecular weight below about 800,000. - -

A1
Cont. - - 39. The method of claim 35, wherein the hyaluronic acid salt is the sodium salt and has a mean average molecular weight of from about 650,000 to about 800,000, a sulphated ash content below about 15% and a protein content below about 5%. - -

- - 40. The method of claim 35, wherein the nonionic polymers are selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose sodium, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose and mixtures thereof. - -

- - 41. The method of claim 35, wherein the nonionic polymer is hydroxyethyl cellulose. - -

- - 42. The method of claim 35, wherein a stable, sterile composition, which comprises: an active drug solubilized within a matrix containing a negative charged polymer having a mean average molecular weight between about 650,000 and 800,000 blended with a nonionic polymer, wherein the molar ratio of the negative charged polymer to the nonionic polymer is 1:0.5 to 2. - -

- - 43. The method of claim 35, wherein the negative charged polymer is a mucopolysaccharide polymer having an average molecular weight between about 700,000 and about 775,000. - -

- - 44. The method of claim 35, wherein the charged polymer is the hyaluronate salt of sodium, calcium, potassium or magnesium.

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45. The method of claim 35, wherein the nonionic polymers are selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose sodium, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose and mixtures thereof. - -

46. The method of claim 35, wherein the molar ratio of the polymers is 1:0.8 to 1.5. - -

47. The method of claim 35, wherein the negative charged polymer is present in amounts of about 0.1% to about 2.0% by weight. - -

48. The method of claim 35, wherein the nonionic polymers are present in amounts of about 0.1% to about 1.0% by weight. - -

49. The method of claim 35, wherein the negative charged polymer solution is added to the nonionic polymer solution. - -

50. The method of claim 35, wherein the nonionic polymer solution is added to the negative charged polymer solution. - -

51. The method of claim 35, wherein the solutions are added together to form a polymer matrix. uu